

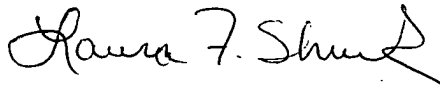
REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of August 12, 2002. The Examiner objected to the drawings, which were filed as informal drawings. Formal drawings are filed herein. The abstract has been amended to delete the term "means". Claims 1-3 have been combined as these claims have been indicated as allowable. Finally, a terminal disclaimer is filed herein to overcome the double- patenting rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Please substitute the following CLEAN Claims for the prior pending claims with the same numbers.

4. A bone plate as set forth in claim ~~11~~^{13 14}, wherein the vertical freedom is defined by a lock screw which extends through an opening in the lock plate to secure the lock plate to the fixation plate.

~~13 17~~. A bone plate comprising;
a fixation plate and a locking plate wherein the fixation plate can be fixed by at least one fastener to a bone, and

wherein the locking plate is secured to the fixation plate and is longitudinally adjustable from a first position to a second position in which the fastener is locked into position by the plate and with limited vertical and longitudinal freedom relative to the fixation plate and wherein the longitudinal freedom is defined by a sliding connection between the locking plate and the fixation plate.